MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958"

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I introduce the Bill.

12.02 hrs.

SUGAR EXPORT PROMOTION (REPEAL) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I, on behalf of Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I introduce the Bill.**

RE: PAPERS RELATING TO INDIA'S STAND ON WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AT SINGAPORE

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, what about the papers regarding WTO.

MR. SPEAKER : I have ordered that the statement of the Minister may be circulated now.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, we are talking about the Statement made there which should have accompanied the draft statement/resolution. What stand did we take? On that there are certain documents. They have made speeches. We wanted those copies. On that day, you requested them to hand those papers over to us. Now they have not done that. They say that they have rejected certain things. What did they say? They have agreed with the working group. What did they say? But what was their statement there. The Minister was there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : We have not been provided with that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have ordered circulation of the Minister's statement which is not normally done. Before the Minister makes a statement, I have ordered for circulation as a special case. You cannot use it outside the House before 4 o'clock.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : That is a statement which he is going to make before the House.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : What we are requesting is that we have got the statement of the Commerce Minister. We will not use it outside the House before 4 p.m. That is over.

Sir, you asked the Government to submit us the papers of the Declaration at Singapore. What stand did the Government of India take at Singapore? The papers stating as to what they agreed and what they disagreed including the speech made by our Minister at Singapore are not available. That is important. This is a statement which is likely to be made at 4 o'clock.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, so many confusing stories are coming about the stand taken by the Minister and our delegation. We want to know the stand of the Government.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : This is what he would say here. But we want to know what he said there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Shillong) : Sir, you have said that the Minister would make a statement at 4 o'clock. But before that we would like the Minister to brief us what are the parameters of the negotiations in relation to investment and competition policy. Those parameters should be known to us.

MR. SPEAKER : You have got the Minister's statement. You cannot quote it now. That is only to facilitate you.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Sir, We want the copies of the adopted Declaration ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Still, those copies are not with us.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear the Minister. Mr. Minister, whatever documents are available, please give it to the Members.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : With due respect to the Members, I wish to say that the Declaration has been circulated.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, the Ministerial Declaration has been circulated. So, that is the Declaration and there is not a single word beyond that in the Declaration.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : We have not got it.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : So far as the statement of the Minister is concerned, as per your direction, it has been circulated to all the Members. With regard to the

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** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

details as to what were the negotiations that were held and at what point of time or what was our stand before making a Declaration, it is a voluminous thing. If you want that, it is possible to make those details available. But it has never happened earlier...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : There is a deviation in that. That is why, the Government agreed to make it available, whatever was given in the document, to the Members.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, your direction was that those papers should be given to us...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chatterjee, please sit down. Shri Pal, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mehta, you cannot talk like that while you are sitting.

Shri Jena, I will say that two documents are very important for a purposeful debate. One is the statement of the Commerce Minister in the WTO Conference at Singapore. That is one very important document which, in fact, would help the Government. The second document is the final Declaration, not the draft one. But if it is final, then you can say that it is the final one. The final Declaration is very important for the House. So, you may kindly look into it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, this one is a draft Ministerial Declaration at Singapore and it is not the final Declaration.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I spoke against this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have received it and I am looking into it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : The sum of Rs. 1/- crore pertaining to M.P. Local Area Development Fund has not reached several constituences and no work pertaining to the year 1995-96 is being undertaken according to guidelines. The guidelines should be amended. I spoke to other hon. Members also in this regard. This money has not reached the constituencies. So, I made this complaint. In the meeting held on 9th December in your Chamber the Government undertook that the amount of Rs. 1 crore would be sent before the closure of this session and the amount pertaining to earlier period would not lapse. The Government side also gave an indication that the guidelines would be revised. Today is Monday and the session is going to conclude of Friday. I, would, therefore, like to know the time by which this amount would be sent. We have to start the work immediately after reaching our constituencies after the closure of the session. The hon. Members should know also the time by which this money would be released. After money reaches there we will start work. Now the year is going to end. This is the month of December and we have to give the detailed account of the proposals of Rs 1 crore within three months. A clarification to this effect should be given.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have made your point.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, there is also some ambiguity in the circular.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the last week of the present Parliamentary Session has began, but the Government has not so far brought Women's Bill. Today is Monday. If the Government does not bring the Bill, the question of its getting passed does not arise at all. Mr. Speaker, Sir, sitting on this Chair you said the Bill would be brought on the 12th, but it was not brought on that date. Today, it is 16th. If the Government does not introduce the Bill today, when the discussion will take place and the Bill be passed. I don't see Government's intention in bringing forward the Bill. I would like you to direct the Government to bring forward the Bill by tomorrow morning. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is injustice to women. It is a betrayal against the women community by the Government. Today it is already 16th and the Government did not bring the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you have made your point.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, the Business Advisory Committee has stipulated two days, that is, 17th and 18th December for discussion and passage of the Constitution (Eighty-first) Amendment Bill as amended by the Joint Committee.

The Government was supposed to discuss it in the Cabinet and give their decision before 17th of December.

As you know, this Bill has created a great expectation among the women of India. Thousands of postcards written in blood reached us for immediate passage of the Bill. Innumerable signatures of women exhorting for the same also reached us.

In this background, I demand that the Government opinion be placed before the House now and the exact date for the discussion and passage of the Bill be fixed today so that it can be passed before the Session ends.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : I am sure the House will recall that when the Bill was introduced, there was a request made by us on behalf of many hon. Members here that the Bill should be passed even without discussion because we are committed to the

object of the Bill and it was, according to us, quite non controversial and it is high time that it is passed. Then the question was of Select Committee or Joint Committee. The Joint Committee has done very useful work. It has given a report within a short time on 9th which left sufficient number of days for the passage of the Bill. After it has been fully considered in the Joint Committee, no further time should have been taken. Therefore, we are pressing the Government to bring this Bill so that it can be considered and passed in this House. The Government has to take a decision on this matter. It cannot be allowed to sit over a very important enactment which the country wants. The majority of the people of this country want this. Therefore, I request the Government to bring this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : We do not want to pass the Bill without discussion, rather the Bill should be passed after a full discussion.

When we, some of the women Members of Parliament, met the hon. Prime Minister in this connection, he said that a meeting of the leaders of all political parties would be convened and a consensus arrived. When major political parties made a committment in their election manifesto that justice would be done to women, where the question of consensus does arise now. It is not only our party but all the parties were unanimous over it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILLIAS AZAMI (Shahabad) : No, our party did not say so. How does she talk about all the political parties. The hon. Member is misleading the House.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Leaders of all political parties which include Shri Somnath Chatterjee of CPM, Shri Indrajit Gupta of the CPI, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and other leaders, are involved in it ...*(Interruptions)* All the leaders are present in the House. They said that this Bill should be passed. I would like to know as to which party has differences on it. Do the cadres of CPM or CPI not want it ..*(Interruptions)* Leaders of all parties are committed on this. Then, where does the question of consensus arise?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. Please allow others also to support you.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : What has been said just now by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj is not correct. We have also got this pledge in our manifesto and we are giving our support to this Bill...*(Interruptions)* Shrimati Sushma Swaraj is saying about CPM and BJP.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I said that leaders of all major political parties agree on this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your problem to utter the word 'Congress'?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I said all major political parties have given consent ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : There should not be any confusion about the support of the Congress-I Party. But the fact remains that some other Parties in this House are also not supporting this. That is the fact. You should consider that.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, democratic rights are being snatched. The parliamentary system is being taken for a ride. Parliamentary rights are being eliminated...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister had said...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : When I have disposed of the matter and I have told you I am considering it, why are you raising it again and again?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, No.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you raising it again the again?

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Regarding the Women's Bill, I would like to say that this should not be allowed to be complicated. This cannot be tolerated by this House. Why should caste consideration come in the way of passing the Women's Bill? This House must take a stand unanimously that this Bill must come before this Hosue and it must be enacted in the course of this Session itself notwithstanding any reservation on caste lines by any party...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is enought. You have already expressed your views.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : what is the fate of that Constitution Amendment Bill? The House would like to know about that.

(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Why can you not listen? Do you not want an answer from the Minister?

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister through you about the non release of funds by the Central Government to the Deputy Commissioner under M.P. Local Area Development Scheme and would like to request the hon. Minister that they should issue necessary directions to the concerned Deputy Commissioner of the districts...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has come. You will get a reply on that also.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, there are two issues...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We have to dispose of this matter first. Shri Pal, you cannot speak now.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, two issues were raised. One is by Shri Ram Naik about the MP's Local Area Development Fund. His point is that money has not been placed at the disposal of the Collectors. The other point is that the previous fund that was with the Collector has not been allowed to be spent by the Members this year. These are the two issues. You have already taken a meeting. On this, instructions have been given.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Sir, six months have elapsed.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not listen? What is this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : On this, instructions have already been given to the Collectors and the money has been placed at their disposal. That was the information given by the Ministry of Programme Implementation. The hon. Minister is here. If any other information which the hon. Members want, he can clarify the position very clearly...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : What is the fate of the Women's Bill?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Let him give a reply on the Women's Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is here. The Minister will himself reply now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are turning it into a Question Hour. I do not know what you are doing. Please listen

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request Hon. Minister, through you that the money should be sent to the Deputy Commissions immediately ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I would like to submit that some of the Collectors have taken a wrong view that the fund has lapsed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you want the money to reach, you allow the Minister to answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not listen to the Minister? If you are not satisfied, you can ask him again. Sit down now, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You listen to the Minister. If you are not satisfied, you can ask him again. You want the answer. But you do not allow the Minister to answer. What is this?

(interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR (Baramulla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister through you that only half of the amount has yet been released under the "MP Local Area Development Scheme" and the rest of the amount would be released after spending this amount so I request the hon. Minister through you, that the rest of the money should also be released immediately...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this Gulam Rasool Kar sahib. Please sit down. The Minister is on his legs to reply...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not want, I will not allow the Minister to answer. Please sit down Mr. Minister. I do not think, anybody is interested in the solution. Unless there is complete silence, the Minister will not reply. What is this going on?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, every Collector has been informed together with reminders that as soon as they finish the money that is available at their disposal, they should immediately ask us for the next instalment. In a very large number of cases, the next instalment has

already been sent. In fact, I have written a letter to each and every hon. Member saying, if by any chance...*(Interruptions)* Let me finish and then you can ask me.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us listen first to the Minister.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : In a few cases, Members have informed me about it and we have spoken to the Collectors. But these are very few cases and in all those cases, money will be made available. In addition, in the presence of a number of senior leaders of the House, the hon. Speaker had taken a meeting in which he had already given certain instructions. As soon as the record of that meeting is made available to us, we will process it up and follow it up. If there is a specific question, I am willing to answer it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : No Collector has received a single pie so far...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Fifty per cent has been sent...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, in the capital of India, Delhi...*(Interruptions)*. It is not in our constituency...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, either the hon. Minister is confused or he is misleading the House. That day, it was decided in the meeting and the hon. Speaker had given direction in this regard. The Finance Minister had agreed that a total of Rs. 1 crore must reach the District Collector immediately. But the Minister is saying that after spending fifty per cent, another fifty per cent will be sent. That is wrong because as rightly stated by Shri Ram Naik, we have only got three months to spend that money. You also asked whether we would be able to spend that additional money. We appreciate it. Now the Minister must make it clear, if he has not already done, whether before 20th, the District Collectors would get Rs. 1 crore.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : He can do it within 24 hours with the modern communication system. He can do it by tomorrow noon.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Secondly, the Minister has again taken a leeway in saying that unless otherwise, guidelines are sent to him, duly signed by you, he cannot instruct the respective District Collector. I appreciate it. I request your Secretariat to send that guidelines which have been decided so that he can circulate them to the Members.

Thirdly, it was decided on that day that this was a scheme of the Speaker. Neither the Finance Ministry nor has the Employment Ministry got any right to dilute it. If they want to dilute it, they should come to you and dilute it and no other should be allowed to do this. There is a clear indication. This is my request ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. RAO RAM SINGH (Mahendergarh) : This should be released by 20th of December.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Speaker Sir, Not received from the Ministry..*(Interruptions)* That is why we say that whatever was discussed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Now, the Minister is trying circumvent what has been decided. When he was present, what is the necessity of these minutes? Are the minutes necessary?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Speaker Sir, you had asked the question from the Minister. He has not replied to that...*(Interruptions)* You must ask him to give the reply...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North-West) : I draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister through the hon. Speaker about the lawlessness and the helpless situation that the passengers in the trains are facing in Bihar.

The incident that had happened on 13th of December 1996 is very shocking. I was also personally involved in that incident. On 13th of December 1996, we got into the Ranchi-Howra Express in the Air-Conditioned first Class, and as soon as the train started, within four or five minutes we found that a gang of young hooligans with revolvers and daggers were knocking at one of our AC compartments. Immediately, we closed the doors. When they could not open the doors of our AC compartments, they went to the Two-tier AC compartments and looted the properties of the passengers at the point of revolvers which they were having. After finishing the said operation, they again came to the AC compartment and when we did not open the doors in spite of their knocking, they broke the glasses of the doors and entered into the compartments. They came to me and with the revolver on my throat, they gave a fisted blow to me and I had no other choice but to hand over to them my purse. Similarly, all the AC compartments had to do the same thing...*(Interruptions)* The operation continued for about 45 minutes. The place of incident was only five minutes away from Ranchi station. There was no armed police, no Railway Protection Force and it was only after two or three hours when the train reached Mourie and then an officer of the GRP came to meet me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We will refer this matter to the Home Ministry.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : Sir, this incident is not a solitary one but the same incident took place one week ago also in the same route from Ranchi to Mourie in the Ranchi-Calcutta Express. Similar incidents took place earlier also within a month's time.

I would request the hon. Railway Minister through the hon. Speaker to give a full statement of how many incidents had occurred of this type of dacoity in the Ranchi-Calcutta Express or any other routes and what action the Railway Minister has taken to ensure the safety and protection of the railway passengers. This is a very serious situation where there is no law and order in Bihar and the hon. Railway Minister coming from Bihar also is not taking any action for ensuring the safety and protection of the railway passengers.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pal, I have understood the point and I will refer it to the Home Ministry.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you talking like this? This is not the place for conversation.

Let us listen to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Speaker Sir, *...(Interruptions)* I need your protection...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to the 'Women'. But let us finish 'Men and Women' first.

[English]

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, I want to state most categorically on behalf of the Government and on behalf of my Ministry that there can be no question of the Ministry of Programme Implementation circumventing any of the instructions of the hon. Speaker.

As soon as I receive the record of the meeting that you have taken, I will take action with the Finance Ministry...*(Interruptions)* This is very important. Then again, I have written to each hon. MP...*(Interruptions)* If anyone of you faces any problem, tell me. Under the rules that are there, right now I will solve it. For a number of times I have solved the problems of hon. MPs. Just tell me the day of spending, right now we will send it.

As far as the instructions of hon. Speaker are concerned, they will be followed immediately. I want to give categorical assurance on that...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Speaker Sir, you just give them directions so that the money is released by 31 December...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : you give them instruction.

[English]

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK (Aska) : I am wondering whether the Programme Implementation Ministry is ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you interrupting?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : I am wondering whether the business of the Programme Implementation Ministry is not to implement. We have said one crore rupees must be given. He will spend Rs. 50 lakh. Then he will come here for sanction again and again. Are you a clerk or a Minister? What are you? You should be a Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I have very high respect for the hon. Member Biju Patnaikji. But I do not think he is being fair to me.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : I have also got respect for him...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : As far as this issue is concerned, the existing rules are being followed fully. It is my duty also to protect the hon. Members. We are doing it with a lot of dispatch. As soon as the rules are changed, I am giving an assurance, we will follow them through.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Hon. Minister has become an MP for the first time, he has become Minister for the first time, he does not know, he has no experience. He has become a Minister by becoming an MP...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Shouting would not work, I am sorry...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : This scheme was going on for the last five years...*(Interruptions)* This is not a University. This is House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please dispose of our issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Sure, Sure, we would definitely dispose of that issue.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Two issues were raised, you are disposing of the one issue. Kindly give us a chance too and dispose of the other issue relating to the Women Bill.

[English]

What is the fate of the Bill?

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to that.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we MPs are facing problems regarding MP Local Area Development Scheme about which many MPs have complained to you separately and several MPs have also complained to the hon. Minister. According to the

letter circulated recently the unspent amount left during the previous year has to be carried forward and to be adjusted during this year. It has no other meaning. This scheme does not mean spending of Rs. one crore for the development of one particular area only. but it means if the Collector does not take any interest in the development of that area or due to certain political reasons the scheme is not deliberately implemented then the unspent money of the previous year would be adjusted during this year. This is the first thing.

Secondly, the scheme for the year 1994-95 has not yet been implemented and the estimated cost is escalating day by day and if the funds are to be adjusted every year then it would take several years to consume the funds while implementing the scheme of 1994-95. These are the two problems. Firstly non-implementation of the recommended scheme of the previous year and escalation of its estimated cost while the scheme is going on. Secondly the use of economy on the part of the Administration and balance of unspent money to be carried forward and adjusted during the next year. In these circumstances the MP Local Area Development Scheme has become a furce and nothing else.

It is our suggestion...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete. Whenever tbe Ministers are changed bureaucrats under them are also changed and they interrupt the scheme in their own way. Former Speaker is not here, we people have talked with him also he had introduced this scheme in consultation with the MPs. Rules were framed in regard to that. He also says that even in his area the collector also misinterpreted the rules and he told that they themselves had framed the rules and he was telling them how to interpret the rules so that is the interpretation. Of course, Alagh Sahib is an intelligent person but that does not mean that he understands the very intention of the scheme and implement it successfully. Whatever our senior Leader Shri Biju Patnaik has said, is correct. Everytime we would come here spending the money and those who would not spend the money, his constituency would suffer and my constituency is it live example.

I am going to meet you along with the documents regarding the position of 1994-95 scheme. Of course, it is an individual case. It is a general problem also. But we suggest that the only way to solve the general problem is to constitute a Standing Committee of Parliament on this subject which may be composed of even less members. Whosoever have any problem, may complain and approach this committee and the committee should consider that and redress the grievances. If there is some problem in the implementation or interpretation of rules and the rules are to be changed then the committee should go into it and finally that can be accepted by you and directions are issued by the Government accordingly.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the questions raised by our friend are perhaps being raised in the House for the fifth time there cannot be anything more shameful than this. This scheme was framed after lot of deliberations. Hon. Shri Biju Patnaik has also raised this question. It seems members are literally begging. The hon. Minister has just said that it is also their duty to protect them. The MPs need his protection and your protection. If the Minister feels that they are protecting the Members they are under the wrong impression and going beyond their brief. But the whole scheme is becoming a mockery and specially in the context of the standard of debate going on in the House. It is really in bad taste.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request you to kindly issue clear directions to the Government to send a copy of the scheme to all the members and the District Collectors. This Government is somewhat more confused. Please do not add to the prevailing confusion otherwise it would appear as if the Members of Parliament are daily fighting for Rs. one crore. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please do whatever you deem fit and there is no need to constitute any Parliamentary Committee. You have your own Secretariat, you have your own people knowing law. So you forward a copy of the scheme and its correct interpretation to the hon. Minister and the Members of Parliament. We would be really grateful if Shri Jena Sahib sends a copy of the same to the District Collectors.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, sit down. We cannot waste any more time. Shri Rasool, please sit down. Otherwise, everybody would want to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it is time now for the Speaker to protect the hon. Members, as the senior Member, Shri Chandra Shekhar has said. I think, the hon. Minister is mixing up the whole issue. There are two issues here. One is the finalisation of new guidelines and the other is the release of the money.

I do not think that these two issues are inter-related. As we have discussed in the meeting with the Leaders of all the parties, the guidelines have been finalised unanimously and they will be ready in two days' time. They will be sent to the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation for circulation to the hon. Members. As the guidelines have been unanimously accepted by the various political parties, I can even give them to the hon. Members informally, if they want to have it that way. But formally, the guidelines will have to go through the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation. And in that meeting, it was agreed in the presence of the hon. Minister of Finance that irrespective of the guidelines being finalised or issued, the money would be released to all the constituencies in fifteen days' time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I would give the direction to the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation that whether the guidelines are finalised or not - and they would be finalised in two days' time - the money, that is the full Rs. 1 crore should be released before the 20th of this month.

Now, on the Women's Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, you give the same guideline.

MR. SPEAKER : That was not my guideline; that was decided by all the political parties.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, on this second issue also, you can give the same guideline... *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Please listen to me also. There had been no M.P. in our area for the last four years. This scheme would not be applicable to us. Hence Rs. 4 crores for each MP for the last four years may kindly be got released.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, I would like to reiterate the Government's stand that the Bill regarding reservation for women is being considered seriously by the Government... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The Bill was introduced in the House. How can they take it so lightly? Are you satisfied with the reply?... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Zero hour is over.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let us take up Matters Under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : They are saying that they are considering it seriously. Are you satisfied with the reply?... *(Interruptions)* We need your protection. Now the Government is saying that it is being considered seriously. They are turning it topsy-turvy. The Bill was introduced in the House with the consensus of all the political parties.. *(Interruptions)* How can they do it?

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

I don't want to talk with them. I want to talk with you only. It is your baby. You had assured that it would be passed without discussion ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, on the night of 12th December many people were gunned down by extremists operating from across the border in Tripura.. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to give time to Shri Jagmohan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : They have killed 36 people and left a good number of people belonging to the Bengali community injured, including women and children... *(Interruptions)* Several times in the past in this very House demands have been made for sending back the para-military forces which were shifted from Tripura during the time of elections in Jammu and Kashmir and other places... *(Interruptions)* Let this House condemn this heinous act of crime of the extremists and urge upon the Government to immediately send back the para-military forces to Tripura to assist the law and order agencies of the State of Tripura... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, what is this? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What can I do?

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You are helpless. It is really surprising. If you won't help us where we will go.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You bring the Bill here.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : We were under the impression that you certainly help us. We thought you would direct the Government and ask them to bring the Bill in due course. On being said by them that they are considering it, you have become silent.

[English]

What does he mean? Does he mean that the Government was considering it non-seriously earlier and now they have introduced an element of seriousness in it. What is this?

[Translation]

Why have you become silent. If you are not going to help us then who is going to help us.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The BAC has already decided.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Do not show your helplessness... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Unless the Bill is brought before the House, I cannot do anything.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : How can the other business allowed...*(Interruptions)* How they can be allowed More women are not allowed to become member of the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill has already been introduced in the House. The Committee has submitted its report. It should be listed for consideration of the House and whatever amendments have been suggested by the Committee can be considered by the House. It appears that the Government is not sensitive to this and its insensitiveness has been increased...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Bring it to the House for consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI PARMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have just said that if the Government doesn't bring the Bill...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : You please allow the ladies to speak, why are you speaking?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Why? Can't I speak?...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have just said that nothing could be done till the Government brings the Bill. I think, this is not the correct interpretation of the rules...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No. It is not. I will clarify it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The House has got the Bill. It has to come on the Agenda paper and it has to be passed by this House.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)* If the Government doesn't want to pass the Bill and wants to oppose it let it be done, but discussion must be done and whatever decision is arrived then, would be final.

[English]

Let the Government be exposed in this House, if they do not want to pass it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Can you listen to me for a minute? What I meant is that in the last BAC meeting, the Government have said - it was agreed by all - that since some amendments have been suggested by the Joint Committee, if the Government have to accept them, they have to go to the Cabinet, after which only, it can be taken up. That was the decision. That was agreed to by all the political parties in the BAC meeting. That is what I am saying. Otherwise, you have got every right; the Bill is the property of this House. It is not necessary also that the Bill has to go back to the Cabinet. That is not our concern. We can take up the discussion on the Bill. It is for the Government to accept or not to accept the amendments. But it was the decision of the BAC. I have only reiterated that point...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has already passed eight days.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to say one thing relating to your point. All the amendments were moved with the permission of the Law Minister and those not accepted were ignored by the Committee. All amendments have been moved with the permission of the Law Minister and Cabinet approval is merely a formality. If the Government have made up its mind, the Government should not be afraid and have the courage to withdraw the Bill so that the women of India come to know that the Government have changed its mind. There is no need to say that the Government would bring the Bill in this Session or that Session. If the Government does not want to pass the Bill let it be withdrawn. The Government must be aware of its consequences. The whole Indian women would come on the roads and would start an agitation. It will be a fraud on the House and on the Indian women. The Government should not afraid. A fraud has been committed and the people have been kept in dark. If you have the guts, let the bill be withdrawn ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: The intention of the Government is not clear ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You just want to keep the bill pending by bluffing.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The report on the Bill was presented to the House on the 9th of December. Then the BAC took up the issue and decided that the Bill would be taken up on the 12th. The Government had enough time. There was enough time to consider all the amendments by the Cabinet also. The Government should be serious to pass the Bill. We have always demanded that the Bill should be passed in the present form itself, even without discussion because there was enough discussion in the House on this, last time. We had enough discussion and now, the Bill should be brought before the House and it should be passed. What is the necessity of a discussion now? The Bill should be passed as it is. If the Government is serious about reservation of women, then the Bill should be brought before the House by tomorrow and passed by tomorrow even without discussion.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we people have full faith in the Government. The whole lot of Indian women are under the impression that the Bill would be passed. We have been told that there would be no discussion on the Bill and it would be referred to a Committee and would be passed by having a discussion there itself. We would request that this Bill should be passed this week itself i.e. today, tomorrow or day after. This is our demand.

SHRIMATI RAJNI PATIL (Beed) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the way the Bill, should have been protected, has not been protected. This is our allegation. I just want to say that the intention of the Government doesn't appear to be clear. I would request all the women that they should boycott. All women have high hopes from the Government.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that we, members of Parliament favour reservation for women but we must take care of whose women of backward classes who constitute the fifty percent of the lot and the Government must pass this Bill immediately, of course, in a modified form. The Government should not keep pending the issue of backward classes and should move the amendments in this session itself.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Bill was taken up for discussion for the first time I had told while speaking on this Bill that some provision should be made for the women belonging to the backward classes. I never meant division of women on caste lines. I had urged this because when a Bill is being brought it must contain some provision for the development of weaker sections. But now it appears that the Bill is being stalled on that plea. I would like to urge the Government though you, that it has other options also. On that very day I had requested the Hon'ble PM that he should promise to the members of the House that soon provision would be made in the modified Bill for the women belonging to the OBC by calling another session. But if the present Bill is not being passed on that plea I would urge that this Bill should be passed in the present form itself or it should be passed by making certain amendments by incorporating certain provisions for the reservation of women belonging to the backward castes.

SHRI ILLIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it is an important issue and it is in consonance with high tradition of Parliamentary system that we must have a consensus on this issue.

Secondly I would like to say that it is wrong to say that backwardness of women can be removed by making reservations for them as the people of BJP and other progressive parties are saying...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, I raise strong objection to it.

[Translation]

SHRI ILLIYAS AZMI : Mr Speaker, Sir, specific reservation should also be made for Muslim backward women and the people who call themselves progressive and those who are communal seems to be much worried about Muslim women. They regard muslim women as most backward. It is a fact. If backwardness can be removed by political reservations, then should be given special status in that reservation, they should have larger share and the women belonging to the backward classes should be given reservation too.

Secondly, I would like to point out that this reservation should be made applicable in Rajya Sabha and in State Assemblies also.

Thirdly, in so far as Bahujan Samaj Party is concerned we are against political reservations. Even Baba Saheb Ambedkar had opposed reservations we favour reservations in the matter of employment. We have opposed political reservations at every level. We have been opposing political reservations since the time Baba Saheb Ambedkar and have been saying that there should be no political reservations. You show your large heartedness as has been shown by the Bahujan Samaj Party. That party has chosen a women as their leader and that women has distributed all tickets. Given that proof of your large heartedness and choose some women as your leader. Don't commit the sin the disturbing the political structure by giving political reservations.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have made you point. Please sit down now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI (Gaya) : The Bill may be passed provided it has provisions for the reservation of women belonging to the Harijan Tribal, backward classes and backward Muslim society. Since a women has been regarded as mother since time immemorial. Gauri came tirst not Shankar. Sita is first not Ram. Hence reservation should be provided to women provided it has reservation for the women belonging to the Harijan Community, backward community and Tribal women.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill must be brought and whenever this. Bill is brought it must have reservation of women belonging to the backward classes and muslim society. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must appreciate that our women know only how to veil. They don't know how to move in the society. If reservation is made for them they can move in the society and can fight for their own rights...*(Interruptions)*

we are demanding reservations for the backward women...*(Interruptions)* We are demanding reservation for our backward women.

MR. SPEAKER : Phoolan Devi ji. Please sit down.

[English]

Now, please sit down. That is enough. We have no time.

Yes, Shri P.C. Thomas.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, this is a very very important and a novel bill...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA (Puri) : Sir, when the issue has been decided unanimously by all political parties in the Business Advisory Committee...*(Interruptions)* Why should the House waste its time on this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I am sure, all are interested in this Bill. We also support this Bill. But I am of the view that this being a very important Bill it should be discussed in the House and all the Members should be given an opportunity to participate in the discussion. Moreover, there are a number of amendments which the Members are likely to bring. The amendments should also be looked into.

Sir, another suggestion has also been made that this affects the States also and so the State Legislature are also interested in the matter and a discussion by the State Legislatures may also be necessary for a very important Bill like this. So, I suggest that the views of the States should also be taken in this regard.

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Shillong) : I support what Shri Thomas said. This is a very important Bill and from the discussions it is quite clear that the entire problem of the women - the *adivasi* women, OBC women, the Scheduled Tribe women — nothing has been considered. This Committee has confined its activities only in Delhi and therefore, it should first go to the States. The States must give their opinion and consider them, Then we would try to find out a proper policy on this. This Bill should be reconsidered and sent back to the Committee.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You had your say. Let him also say his view point. He has a right to say what he think about it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for having given me an opportunity to speak. It is heartening that we are going to do in India something which has not been done anywhere in the world and in any Parliament. But Sir when you conceive of a thing that such a Bill is brought in Parliament and is passed I would request, that such an exercise may not lead a particular section to capture the Parliament. Regarding this issue of reservations to be made for Scheduled Castes and backward people being discussed in the House I would like to say that reservation for muslim women and women of other minorities should also be made. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to point out here that the freedom being enjoyed by the minorities have is not because of the communal forces. These minorities should have more representatives in the House.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : There must be a Uniform Civil Code. You have Talaq by merely saying Talaq, Talaq, Talaq three times...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You had your say. Let him also say his view point. He has a right to say what he thinks about it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : About 18-19 percent of the population belongs to the minorites. Are they being represented fully and if that representation is not there then certainly their representation would be further reduced by bringing this sort of Bill. The people of minorities would hardly reach to the Parliament. It is, therefore, requested Sir that due care should be taken to bring the minorities within the purview of such a Bill if at all brought.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Our stand is entirely on a different plank.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDER SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after a prolonged Debate for days together, it is clear that a decision has been taken by you people with utmost care in which our leader Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also present.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Why doesn't you call him Guru today?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : He has found a new Guru.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : After being inspired by the Guru I would suggest that when you are ready to take such a far reaching decision, of course I was not one of them, but if Guruji is ready his pupil is ready to follow suit. To make it more far reaching let us take some concrete measures as suggested by our friend. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee should resign and Kumari Uma Bharati should take over as leader of Opposition. Similarly Shri Ram Vilas Paswan should resign and Ms.

Subhawati should take over him as their leader. In place of Shri Mulayam Singh, Smt. Phoolan Devi should take over and Ms. Chhabila ji should become leader of the Congress Party. I don't know whether the Communist party has any leader or not.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You have not given prominance to other women.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : So, I feel if people are really sincere and serious this problem can be fully solved. But I don't think the Communist party has any women leader who belongs to backward classes also. I can understand why Shri Mahajan is taking interest, but I failed to understand why my old friend is showing this much interest.

So, Speaker, Sir, I very seriously say that it is not required in the House at all. Anyhow, all leading parties should implement it immediately and then see its impact in the entire country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Business Advisory committee is meeting today. I will again place the matter before the BAC.

The House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at Five Minutes part Fourteen of the Clock.

13.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till five , Minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

14.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at Fourteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for construction of a by-pass at Kuju on National Highway No.33 in Hazaribagh district, Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIRLAL VISHWAKARMA (Hazaribag) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I would like to say through you that National Highway No.33 passes through a place named (Kuju) in Hazaribag District of South Bihar and hundreds of trucks and other vehicles pass through that road daily. The local people are under constant threat of accidents as well as diseases bomount of polution because of lesser width of Kuju road.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to construct a bye-pass at Kuju on Highway No.33.

[English]

(ii) Need to set up a Bench of High Court in Saurashtra region.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : The people of Saurashtra region have a long outstanding demand for setting up a High Court bench in Bhavnagar city in Saurashtra region. The demand has not been met so far.

The people of Kutch Saurashtra have to commute to Ahmedabad. The Bar Associations, Chamber of Commerce and various institutions of Bhavnagar and Saurashtra launched agitations and demonstrated on the roads with this demand. The Members of Parliament, Assembly and members of the local bodies of Saurashtra wrote letters, submitted memoranda in support of this demand but the same has not been fulfilled so far. If the demand is not met even now, the people may have to resorts to making a demand for separate Saurashtra.

A seperate High Court bench should be provided for Saurashtra in the Same manner as High Court Benches have been set up during the last 10-20 years in U.P., Bihar, Maharashtra and other States of the country. When Saurashtra was a separate region it had a high Court, therefore, this demand is genuine and deserves to be fulfilled immediately.

(iii) Need to set up Biosphere Centres in National Parks to Protect Tigers

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to the increasing incidents of poaching of tigers in the country. After decimating the tiger population in most parts of Asia, poachers have now stepped up their activities in India.

Tigers are killed for commercial and medicinal purposes. Each and every part of a tiger's body is used for making some kind of traditional medicine or other. According to an estimate made in 1995 by the Worldwide Fund for Nature India (WWF), 32 to 40 tigers are killed every year for commercial purposes. Even the poachers making unauthorised entry into the project tiger areas are killing the tigers. Whether it is Shimilipal or Ranthambor or any other tiger reserve forest, such incidents are increasing every year. It is most unfortunate that the poachers are allowed to go scot-free.

Another factor that threatens the tiger's survival is a loss of its habitat. Approximately 1.15 million hectares of forests were lost in India from 1952 to 1980. Therefore, I urge the Government to conserve the habitat if we want to save the tigers from depletion. A biosphere centre is being set up at the famous Shimlipal forest.